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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

12 February 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Soviet General Purpose Forces

1. Attached is a communication from the Secretary of Defense expressing his gratification in the substantial progress made toward improving our estimates on the subject, with particular reference to the work of the CIA-DIA Panel for special study of the Soviet Ground Forces and of others who contributed to NIE 11-14-63. He requests that his thanks be passed to those responsible for this work, and I would appreciate your doing so to those within your respective agencies.

2. We should note that the Secretary refers also to the serious limitations that still exist in our knowledge of the subject, and that he is interested in seeing the results of the further studies programmed by the Panel. Needless to say, we should make every effort to overcome these limitations and in particular give all support to the work of the CIA-DIA Panel.

[Redacted Signature]

John A. McCone
Chairman

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Washington

OSD DECLASSIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE 30 January 1964

Honorable John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

We have made substantial progress in the past year in refining our estimates of Soviet general purpose forces. I have been particularly pleased with the joint effort in this field by CIA and DIA which was reflected most recently in the new estimate, NIE 11-14-63, "Capabilities of the Soviet General Purpose Forces, 1963-1969." I would appreciate your passing on my thanks to those persons responsible for this work.

I believe that this new estimate gives us a much sounder basis for our planning and for planning within NATO. But along with a better picture of the true general purpose force strengths of the USSR, the estimate does reveal limits to our knowledge. I am optimistic that further progress can be made toward definitive calculation of the strengths and weaknesses of the Soviets. I will be interested in seeing the results of your follow-on studies of costing, equipment production and inventory, and tables of organization and equipment.

I have sent a similar communication to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Sincerely,

/S/
BOB

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